

SPECIFICATION

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"Library Checking Systems"

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A library checking system for use with books provided with RFID tags comprises a terminal incorporating a housing within which a book is contained during checking, and an identification antenna for detecting the RFID tag of the book while within the housing and for supplying a signal identifying the book to a central processor. A book slot through which the book is insertable for checking opens into the housing, and an output from the housing is provided through which the book is discharged to a pick-up area in the event of the book being passed by the central processor as available for borrowing. A pivotable bookdrop flap is provided within the housing on which the book is supported during detection by the identification antenna, the flap being pivotable to cause the book to drop into a bookdrop bin in the event of the book not being passed by the central processor as available for borrowing. Such a system enables a book or other borrowable item to be automatically issued to a user when the item is passed by the central processor as being available for borrowing. In this case the user may collect the book from the pick-up area and can take the book out of the library without any manual checking system being required. In the event that the book is found not to be available for borrowing, the book is automatically passed to a secure receptacle, thus preventing the user from borrowing the book.

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